

## Absence of Travers and Travis Makes 'Met' Tourney Most Uncertain Ever Held

Carter, Lewis, Topping, Anderson, Kirby and Marston Appear to Have Fairly Even Chance of Winning Championship Which Starts at Nassau Country Club To-Day.

By William Abbott.

THE Metropolitan golf championship that starts on the Nassau Club links to-day presents a fine little mental hazard for the spectators to play over when they attempt to pick the winner. Of the 120 starters, the absence of two stars has a good chance of winning the title. It was different in the old days when Jerry Travers was an outstanding favorite. Then the outcome of the meet was dismissed with a brief "Jerry'll win." But Travers isn't going to compete at Nassau nor will Walter J. Travis, who captured the championship at Apawamis last year, tie up a ball in the qualifying round. So the absence of two of the champions makes the Nassau tournament the most uncertain of all Metropolitan championships.

With Travers and Travis out, the chances of about six stars—Paul Carter, Reggie Lewis, Henry Topping, John Anderson, Oswald Kirby and Max Marston—appear fairly even with luck determining the final outcome. Perhaps twenty-year-old Phil Carter stands more chance of winning than anyone else in the starting now. He is a heavy match player, who knows his shots, and his rise on the links the last two years has been little short of a sensation.

Carter hasn't been in the best of health this year. After winning the North and South championship at Poughkeepsie last winter, he has only participated in several exhibitions. Henry Topping, a young Greenwich millionaire, always a good golfer, has played in consistent form this year. He employs MacDonald Smith as private tutor, and this means of instruction has cured him of much of his former weakness, which was a tendency to be wild. Topping won both the Ardley and Garden City tournaments this season, and his present form makes him a serious contender for the "Met" title.

John Anderson was runner-up to Travis for the Metropolitan championship. He also reached the final round for the National title. Anderson has been termed the near-champion, but it seems probable that, favored by breaks of the game, he should come all the way through for a title possibly in the near future.

Reggie Lewis is one of the best young golfers in the East. He's not nearly so sensational as Carter, but knows the game and possesses plenty of nerve.

Max Marston, who lost his Jersey State title to Kirby at Englewood last Saturday, generally manages to survive to nearly the finish of most tournaments. A powerful driver, Marston is a wizard getting out of trouble, but students of the game insist his iron shots are not what they should be.

Oswald Kirby, who won the Metropolitan championship in 1914, will have considerable to say about the final disposition of the title this season. Kirby has the shots and his golfing form is above the standard, but everything must break just right for the Englewood star before he can find himself battling in the final of any big tournament.

The qualifying test to-day will be at 10 holes. Match play round will be run off to-morrow and Friday with a 36-hole final on Saturday.

The English golfer, Mrs. W. A. Gavin, playing under the colors of the Cherry Valley club, took the lead in the American women's golf tournament at the Essex Country Club at Manchester, Mass. In the second 18 holes of the 54-hole competition in medal play she made a score of 88 and thus brought her total to 176 for the two days' play. Miss Curtis took 92 for her forward and outward journey, her total being 179. Miss Marion Hollins of West Brook, L. I., and Mrs. R. H. Barlow of the Merion Cricket Club, both of whom completed the first 18 holes in 93 on Monday, yesterday improved their game by five strokes and remain in a tie for third place with a two-day total of 181.

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